

# Saipan Tribune

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## INSIDE



### Tinian in Tatters

The island of Tinian sustained massive damage from the raw force of Supertyphoon Chaba, displacing some 150 people and plunging the island into a total power blackout.

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### Plane Crash

A Russian airliner crashed and a second disappeared from radar about the same time Tuesday night after both planes took off from the same Moscow airport, raising fears that terrorism was involved.

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### Imelda on 'Imelda'

"I've been very misunderstood," says a pouty, wide-eyed Imelda Marcos at the outset of Ramona S. Diaz's documentary "Imelda." She's decked out like a Braniff stewardess—a plutocratic Celine Dion charged with human rights abuses.

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# Chaba wrecks 1,168 homes

By JOHN RAVELO  
REPORTER

**H**undreds of residents remain homeless after Supertyphoon Chaba's strong winds and accompanying rains blew away roofs and flooded homes, leaving more than a thousand houses destroyed or significantly damaged.

As of yesterday, the CNMI Emergency Operations Center reported that some 949 evacuees remained at government shelters on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Initial assessment placed the number of destroyed houses at 299—198 on Saipan, 73 on Tinian, and 28 on Rota. The number of houses that sustained major damage reached 869—569 on Saipan, 178 on Tinian, and 122 on Rota. The findings placed the total number of houses that were either destroyed or significantly damaged at 1,168.

The number may still rise, as the EOC disclosed that assessments were still ongoing.

EOC information and planning section chief Tony Calvo said evacuations to emergency shelters were still ongoing yesterday, two days after Chaba unleashed its fury on the islands.

The number of evacuees at government shelters remained at 949. Calvo said 785 persons were staying at 10 shel-

See CHABA on Page 12



JOEY CHARFAURUS

Like a house of cards, this house on Tinian was reduced to rubble, its walls no match against the ferocious winds of Supertyphoon Chaba.

## CUC: We're doing the best we can

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday asked for patience and understanding after receiving numerous phone calls from angry customers who have yet to get their power supply restored.

As of Tuesday midnight, 84 percent of the island already has power, according to Pamela Mathis, CUC special adviser for corporate communications.

She noted that CUC personnel made a huge jump in power restoration efforts in most areas, and will continue to do so until power has

been restored throughout the island.

"We have been getting phone calls from angry customers, or simply exhausted people, who don't understand why their neighbor has power and they do not. This is one of the hardest problems we face typhoon after typhoon,"

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## PSS taken off high-risk grantee list

By LIBERTY DONES  
REPORTER

The Public School System has been taken off the high-risk grantee status by the U.S. Department of Education.

In an Aug. 11, 2004, letter to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, USDOE deputy secretary Eugene W. Hickok said the high-risk grantee designation, which was issued in

Sept. 2003, has been removed due to "significant progress" made by PSS in administering department programs.

The de-listing, according to Hickok, means that the special conditions imposed on PSS in administering its fiscal year 2004 grant awards and other remaining unex-



Inos

pended portion of FY 2003 grants are now lifted.

Likewise, he said that USDOE will no longer restrict PSS to a 50 percent drawdown of its grant awards, as contained in the Sept. 2003 letter.

In deciding to de-list PSS, Hickok said the department

See PSS on Page 12

## Foul play involved in Ortiz mauling—Muna

By LIBERTY DONES  
REPORTER

A forensic pathologist has ruled that foul play was involved in the beating incident that led to the death of nonresident worker Luciano Silvestre Ortiz last week.

"That's the finding of the doctor—that foul play was involved, a homicide," said, Public Safety acting spokesman Capt. Pete Muna yesterday.

He said that based on the autopsy conducted by Dr. Aurelio Espinola, chief medical examiner/forensic pathologist

from Guam, Ortiz had bruises on the eyes and mouth and was found to have pneumonia. But Espinola reportedly said that contracting pneumonia was common with victims that sustained an injury.

Muna further said that Espinola found

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## CAMPUS BULLETIN

### GTC resumes classes today

Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos, in consultation with Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School principal Manuela Babauta, has declared GTC Elementary School fit for reopening and classes will resume today, Aug. 26.

Besides GTC Elementary School, students are not required to report to any other public school today, Aug. 26.

Contact the Public School System at 664-3700 or 664-3727 this afternoon regarding the status of classes for Friday, Aug. 27.

### MCS resumes classes today

The Mount Carmel School said in a statement that it will resume classes today, Aug. 26, 2004.

### PSS statement

Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos said the Public School System will announce when schools will re-open and classes begin again. Inos noted that assessments of school readiness for re-opening are being undertaken. Some schools may open a little sooner than others, depending on when CUC restores power and water to schools.

For the most up-to-date information, call the Commissioner's Office at 664-3700 or the Board of Education Office at 664-3727.



Local

Sablan: No major damage to businesses

By **LIBERTY DONES**  
REPORTER

Business establishments on island sustained no major damage during Supertyphoon Chaba, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan said yesterday.

“There’s a lot of flooding but most businesses are okay. Some warehouses were damaged but can be easily repaired. I don’t believe it hurt that much,” said Sablan. In fact, he said the typhoon conditions resulted in increased consumer spending since

people bought stock items. Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands president Ron Sablan, meantime, confirmed that hotel occupancy was up during the typhoon. He said local residents with no power and water supply at home preferred to check-in at hotels.

“Also people went to hotels for security reasons,” he added. Tourists who got stranded on island due to the stormy condition also boosted the occupancy rate over the weekend. “It was good for the hotels. We are glad that we can be of help but it’s unfortunate because

of its impact on tourism,” he said. Ron Sablan said that, while there was some benefit in terms of increased occupancy rate, “we’re concerned about how the island looks right now.”

“That certainly affects tourism but we’ve been resilient on this kind of situation. We can work things out together,” he said. Meantime, Sablan said HANMI’s coordination with the Emergency Management

Office in getting timely weather alerts “worked” this time. He said that during Typhoon Tinging, HANMI was at a loss for lack of information from EMO. “Shortly before Supertyphoon Chaba hit us, we had worked things out with EMO. For the first time, EMO was giving us information on [the] weather situation. It’s effective. We were able to give our guests timely updates,” said Sablan.



Ron Sablan



Alex Sablan

Man sentenced for burglary and theft

By **LIBERTY DONES**  
REPORTER

A man who stole to support a drug habit has been sentenced to two years in prison, with credit given to the time he has already served since his arrest six months ago. The defendant, Davis Clyde Diaz, was originally sentenced to five years for burglary but it was suspended except for two years, with credit for time served in prison. In a court ruling released yesterday, Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Diaz to one-year imprisonment for criminal mischief and another year for misdemeanor theft. Both sentences gave credit for the time that Diaz had already served and are to run concurrently. The judge said the defendant shall be out on supervised probation during the suspended sentence. He is also required to write an apology to the victim, Delia Kristobol, and pay a restitution of nearly \$1,000. Manglona said that Diaz, single, broke into the victim’s bedroom in January this year, proceeded to an attached retail store, and took cigarettes, liquor, beer, and butane. “The defendant stole things not to support himself for survival, but ‘to do something exciting’ to satisfy his vices... This is unacceptable and the defendant needs to be taught a very important lesson,” she said.

The defendant got the items “to get his quick butane high and to get his alcohol and cigarettes, all addictive materials,” said Manglona. In coming up with a decision, Manglona said she took into consideration Diaz’s “troubled upbringing.” She said Diaz comes from a broken home where both his parents are also drug users. His father is presently in prison for a drug-related conviction and his mother’s conduct resulted in the defendant and his siblings being placed in foster homes in Idaho. At the sentencing, Manglona said that Diaz admitted that his addiction to sniffing gas led him to commit the crime. “The court accepts the defendant’s sincere statements as an indication of his efforts toward rehabilitation,” she said. Manglona said, though, that Diaz is not new to the criminal justice system, saying he previously pleaded guilty to the same crime—burglary. In the prior case, he faced five years of imprisonment. Further, Manglona said that Diaz, who committed his crime with a minor, should have known better and guided the younger relative in the right direction. “If he cannot restrain himself for his own sake, this court must act to restrain him in order to protect the community,” said Manglona. The judge, at the same time, said she hopes that the jail sentence would deter other people from committing such crimes.

MAZDA  
CMYK  
NEW!

The Saipan Tribune accepts unsolicited photos of birthdays, weddings, baptisms, and other community and family events for free publication. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. What includes a caption containing complete details for description of the event, location of the persons in the picture, the date, and the place, the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication and the date of the picture. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to [contributions@saipantribune.com](mailto:contributions@saipantribune.com). To check if contributions are needed, call 255-4337, 255-3448, or 255-4045.

# Military intensifies training in the Marianas

By JOHN RAVELO  
REPORTER

Military activities in the Marianas continue to rise, scheduling this week a first air-to-surface missile target practice on Guam, bombing exercises on Farallon de Mendinilla, and helicopter operations on Tinian.

The Naval Forces Marianas disclosed that the U.S. Navy and the Royal Thai Navy would conduct the missile exercise in Sta. Rita from Aug. 29 to Sept. 5.

The exercise would involve firing an AGM-84 Harpoon, an all-weather, over-the-horizon, anti-ship missile with active radar guidance.

“The purpose of this training is to allow the Royal Thai Navy, in

coordination with the U.S. Navy, to load an AGM-84 Harpoon on a Fokker 27 aircraft, and then launch it against a carefully chosen target in the military training area W-517 to the south of the island of Guam,” said Lt. Judith Marking, public affairs officer for the Naval Forces.

Marking called the exercise a historical event for the Royal Thai Navy, saying it would be “the [Thai Navy’s] first air-to-surface missile shot from an aircraft to a surface target.”

Adm. Chumpol Pachusanon, Royal Thai Navy Commander in Chief, and Adm. Vichai Yuwanagoon, Royal Navy Commander in Chief, Royal Thai Navy Fleet would attend the event.

“This exercise will be a unique,

one-time event that showcases the many levels of military co-operation that exist between the Royal Thai Navy and the U.S. Navy,” Marking said.

She said planning for the event began as early as April 2004, which involved the upper echelon of the Royal Thai Navy and the Task Force 72 and Naval Forces Marianas commander.

The Navy assured that the missile exercise would be conducted in a “safe, environmentally friendly, and

professional environment.”

On Farallon de Mendinilla, the U.S. military began bombing exercises Tuesday, which would last until Friday next week. Daily training runs from 11am to 12midnight.

The CNMI Emergency Management Office advised fishermen, commercial pilots, and tour operators to stay away from the training area, which covers “15,000 feet mean sea level on a 10-nautical mile radius from all quadrants.”

The EMO also advised tour operators to stay away from the Tinian North Field training area, where the U.S. military would conduct helicopter operations beginning today, from 9am to 11am.

On Friday, the training will begin at 10pm until 10:30am the following day. It would resume on Monday, 6pm, until 10pm on Wednesday next week, the EMO said. The EMO said the scheduled training would conclude on Thursday next week

from 8am to 5pm.

The U.S. Navy recently joined naval units of allied countries in one of the largest joint maritime exercises in the world, amid Pentagon’s plans to transform the Marianas region into the nation’s military hub on the edge of Asia.

Besides the United States, countries that participated in the Rim of the Pacific 2004 exercises included Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, South Korea, and the United Kingdom.

## Chaba KO’s agriculture sector

By JOHN RAVELO  
REPORTER

For about two to three months, no local produce will be available in the market, after Supertyphoon Chaba heavily devastated Saipan’s agricultural crops.

Isidoro Cabrera, agricultural consultant to the Northern Marianas College’s Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Service, said Chaba’s strong winds totally wiped out the island’s vegetable crops.

“Farmers were suffering from Typhoon Tingting damage. Now, [the agriculture sector] got [battered by] this Chaba,” Cabrera said. “It would take two to three months to see fresh local produce in the market.”

Damaged crops include cucumber, eggplant, okra, string beans, bitter gourd, Chinese cabbage, radish, onion, pumpkin, squash, bell pepper, and tomato, according to Cabrera.

He said Chaba finally wiped out what was left after Typhoon Tingting hit the agriculture sector in late June, as well as crops that were planted after the onslaught of Tingting.

Cabrera earlier reported that Tingting damaged 90 percent of Saipan’s banana trees. Chaba totally wiped out what remained, he said. The supertyphoon also destroyed the island’s papaya trees.

Chaba’s devastation came nearly two months after the onslaught of Tingting, with some 88 commercial farmers on Saipan still waiting for government assistance.

The farmers want the CNMI government to assist them through the provision of vouchers, which could be tendered in stores to buy seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and other agricultural supplies. Cabrera said many farmers did not avail of loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the CREES had asked the Saipan Legislative Delegation to appropriate monies to fund the vouch-

ers for the farmers, with initial damage caused by Tingting estimated at over \$518,000.

The DLNR and the CREES began conducting surveys to assess agricultural damage caused by Chaba.

Among the villages covered in yesterday’s survey were As Lito, Finasisu, and San Vicente, all of which lost their entire vegetable crops.

Cabrera said the supertyphoon also knocked down fruit trees like mango, avocado and orange.



**TIMBERRRRRRR!**  
After surviving countless storms throughout the years, this tree beside the Legislature building on Capitol Hill finally succumbed to Supertyphoon Chaba, keeling over and taking with it a chunk of the concrete path.


CARS UNLIMITED




WEATHER FORECAST

PICTURE TIME: 1:00 AM., MARCH 9, 2004  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.


Fresh to strong trade winds across much of Micronesia converging into lighter winds near the Equator are producing scattered showers between the Equator and 8n from 130e to 153 and between the Equator and 6n from 160e to 180. A cold front stretches from 25n161e to 20n146e and continues as a shear line to 19n130e. Low- and mid-level clouds...light rain and showers associated this feature extend up to 200 miles north of the boundary. Trade wind convergence south of the cold front/shear line is producing low clouds and showers between 12n and 18n from 132e to 150e. This area includes the Mariana Islands.




**SAIPAN AND TINIAN**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.




**GUAM AND ROTA**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.




**PALAU**  
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15 kt.




**POHNPEI**  
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15 kt.



**YAP AND ULITHI**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15-20 kt.






















**KOSRAE**  
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** East at 10-15 kt.



**CHUUK**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15-20 kt.



**MAJURO**  
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.  
**Winds:** East at 15-20 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
 Auckland	Sunny	71F (22C)	60F (16C)
 Beijing	Sunny	65F (18C)	48F (9C)
 Hong Kong	Sunny	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
 Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82F (28C)	68F (20C)
 London, England	Sunny	45F (7C)	30F (-1C)
 Los Angeles	Sunny	79F (26C)	59F (15C)
 Manila	Partly Cloudy	88F (31C)	73F (23C)
 Melbourne	Sunny	75F (24C)	59F (15C)
 Miami	Partly Cloudy	72F (22C)	54F (12C)
 New York City	Cloudy	40F (4C)	34F (1C)
 Osaka	Partly Cloudy	37F (3C)	25F (-4C)
 Paris	Partly Cloudy	38F (3C)	25F (-4C)
 Pusan	Partly Cloudy	53F (12C)	39F (4C)
 Rome	Cloudy	49F (9C)	30F (-1C)
 Salem, Oregon	Partly Cloudy	60F (16C)	40F (4C)
 San Francisco	Sunny	68F (20C)	52F (11C)
 Seoul	Partly Cloudy	47F (8C)	35F (2C)
 Tokyo, Japan	Partly Cloudy	42F (6C)	36F (2C)
 Washington, DC	Cloudy	45F (7C)	34F (1C)



# DPW waives 500-lb limit for household garbage

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works has waived the weekly 500-lb limit for solid waste that local residents can bring to the Lower Base transfer station and the Marpi sanitary landfill.

Enrique Dela Cruz, waste diversion coordinator at the DPW Solid Waste Management Division, said the waiver will be effective immediately until Sept. 4.

“This means residential haulers can come to the Lower Base refuse transfer station and Marpi landfill as many as three times a day without being assessed the 500-lb-per-

week limit,” Dela Cruz said.

DPW normally accepts only up to 500 lbs of solid waste each week from residents. Residential haulers that exceed the 500-lb limit are charged \$25 per ton for the entire volume of regular solid waste brought in. Special waste such as tires and dead animals are assessed at \$35 per ton.

DPW decided to lift the restriction, however, due to the destructive impact of Supertyphoon Chaba. Since recovery efforts from the typhoon started, tons of solid waste have been brought to the transfer station and the landfill.

Dela Cruz said much of the refuse are “green waste,” which

include chopped tree branches and leaves.

The Solid Waste Management Division reminded residents not to mix green waste with solid waste such as empty cans, paper, and other household refuse, as garbage separation takes a lot of time and effort, especially with the volume of wastes coming in.

The Lower Base transfer station is open from 6am to 4:30pm, Monday through Saturday. The Marpi landfill is open from 6:30am to 6pm, also Monday through Saturday.

## Gutierrez faces new charges

**HAGATNA, Guam** (PDN/PIR)—An indictment unsealed Tuesday afternoon lists numerous new charges against former Gov. Carl Gutierrez and former Government of Guam Retirement Fund Director John Rios, ranging from theft by deception to official misconduct.

Gutierrez and Rios are accused of conspiring to alter the former governor’s Retirement Fund membership status, which allowed the governor to collect a larger retirement check than he is legally entitled to.

The indictment was handed down on July 15, but the case was initially sealed. During this time, Gutierrez was on trial on charges that he used government resources at his Urunao ranch in Dededo. He was acquitted of those charges.

The charges and investigation stem from a report by the Office of the Public Auditor, which was released in February, according to the attorney general’s office.

Gutierrez was not home Tuesday night, according to his daughter, Hannah, and could not be reached for comment regarding the latest indictment. Rios also could not be reached for comment. Rios had denied the allegations when interviewed by the Pacific Daily News after the auditor’s report was released earlier this year.

Attorney General Douglas Moylan declined to comment on the indictment.

During the period between Oct. 1, 1999 and Jan. 3, 2003, Rios allegedly committed theft by deception by intentionally and unlawfully causing Gutierrez’s defined benefits retirement fund annuity to be “enhanced by over \$30,000 per year,” the indictment states.

During this period, Rios and Gutierrez allegedly agreed that one or both of them would “engage in conduct which constituted the theft by deception” and did so with the intent.

Rios is accused of preparing and executing a Retirement Fund estimated annuity worksheet that “unlawfully and improperly enhanced” Gutierrez’s defined benefits plan annuity.

Also, during the period between April 13, 2000, and June 19, 2003, Rios allegedly caused Gutierrez to be retroactively enrolled, back to Jan. 1, 1998, in the fund’s defined contributions plan, the indictment said.

Gutierrez and Rios are scheduled to be arraigned on Sept. 1 before Superior Court of Guam Judge Katherine Maraman.

The audit report issued in February stated that an unnamed elected official illegally claimed years of service toward retirement, which allowed his retirement check to increase from \$38,548 a year to \$72,006 a year, Pacific Daily News files state.

He was allowed to pay \$17,000 in retroactive retirement contributions, so he could claim additional years of service and increase his retirement pay, the audit said. But the elected official was collecting a retirement check during those years and therefore could not claim that time toward retirement, Public Auditor Doris Flores Brooks has said.

Guam law states that government retirees who return to the government as elected officials have two options: they can continue to collect a retirement check—called “double dipping”—or they can suspend their retirement check and earn more years of service toward retirement. The official was illegally allowed to do both, files state.

According to the audit, the Retirement Fund director in late 1999, without the consent of the Retirement Fund board, allowed the elected official to retroactively pay two years worth of retirement contributions in order to claim those extra years of service. Rios was the director at the time.

# Flat tire delays Northwest flight

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

The departure of Northwest Airlines passengers stranded during the onslaught of Supertyphoon Chaba was again held off Tuesday evening after the aircraft experienced a mechanical problem.

Northwest Airlines-Saipan general manager Barbara Yamada said the Japan-bound service was supposed to leave at 8pm Tuesday, to fly out 320 passengers, including those stranded on Saipan. But the flight did not push through as scheduled due to a flat tire.

Yamada said the passengers were informed of the possible delay as soon as the problem was found Tuesday morning. The

carrier’s Saipan office did not have the necessary equipment to fix the tire, and had to get the materials from Narita, Tokyo.

The flight finally took off at 7am yesterday.

“Our operations are now back to normal,” Yamada said. “We appreciate the understanding of our passengers. They knew that the typhoon was an act of God. As for the mechanical problem, they understood that we had to delay the flight for their safety.”

Northwest Airlines operates daily flights between Saipan and Nagoya, with departure time at 9am. The carrier also provides twice-daily flights between Saipan and Tokyo, with departures at 8:55am and 5pm.

Further, the airline has a code-share agreement with the

Pacific Island Aviation for connecting flights between Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam.

On Tuesday, Northwest Airlines announced the introduction of more self-service check-in options for travelers at Guam International Airport and Saipan International Airport with the recent addition of its self-service check-in kiosks. *(See story on page 7)*

Northwest is the first airline to offer travelers on Guam and Saipan the option of using self-service check-in kiosks, and Guam and Saipan are the first markets outside of Japan to receive kiosks-part of a deployment of more of its customer service technology throughout the airline’s 15-city Asia-Pacific network.

SAIPANCELL  
CMYK  
8/23



# CPA cuts enplanement cost by 7.8 percent

## Northwest offers bonus frequent flyer miles for trying self-service check-in

Through Dec. 31, 2004, first-time users of Northwest Airlines' self-service check-in kiosks will receive a one-time bonus of 1,000 frequent flyer miles for checking in at one of Northwest's new kiosks across its Asia/Pacific network. Travel must be on an e-ticket.

No advance registration is required. Membership in Northwest's WorldPerks frequent flyer program is required. Fast and easy online WorldPerks enrollment is available at [www.nwa.com/gs](http://www.nwa.com/gs).

This comes soon after Northwest Airlines introduced more self-service check-in options for travelers at the Saipan International Airport and Guam International Airport, with the recent addition of its self-service check-in kiosks.

Northwest is the first airline to offer travelers on Guam and Saipan the option of using self-service check-in kiosks, and Guam and Saipan are the first markets outside of Japan to receive kiosks—part of a deployment of more of its customer service technology throughout the airline's 15-city Asia-Pacific network.

The four new kiosks are currently available for customers' use in the lobby of both airports, and allow customers flying on electronic tickets to check-in for their flights from Guam to Tokyo, Saipan to Nagoya, Japan or Tokyo, and from both Guam and Saipan to the United States and other destinations.

Customers can also use the kiosks to select or change their seat assignment, add WorldPerks frequent flyers information and more. The kiosks are also equipped with passport readers, allowing customers to quickly enter the required passport information by swiping it through the reader. Northwest

customer service staff will verify customers' travel documentation prior to departure.

From Saipan, Northwest offers daily service to Nagoya in addition to daily service to its Tokyo hub, where travelers can make single connections to eight U.S. gateways, and additional connections to hundreds of destinations throughout the world. From Guam, Northwest offers daily service to its Tokyo hub. Northwest's service is available for sale via the Internet at [www.nwa.com/gs](http://www.nwa.com/gs), by calling Northwest Airlines Reservations at 1-800-447-4747, at Northwest Airlines City Tickets Offices or through travel agencies.

Northwest offers service to more destinations in Asia, more flights between the U.S. and Japan, and more flights within Asia than any other U.S. airline. The airline operated a hub from Tokyo's Narita Airport that connects the U.S. gateways of Detroit, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St. Paul, New York-JFK, Portland, Ore., San Francisco and Seattle to key destinations including Bangkok, Thailand; Beijing; Busan, South Korea; Guam; Hong Kong; Manila; Philippines; Nagoya; Japan; Saipan, Mariana Islands; Seoul, South Korea; Shanghai, China; Singapore and beginning October 31, Guangzhou, China. Northwest also offers nonstop service from Osaka to Detroit and Tapei, and from Nagoya to Detroit, Manila and Saipan.

Northwest Airlines is the world's fifth largest airline with hubs at Detroit, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Memphis, Tokyo and Amsterdam, and approximately 1,500 daily departures. Northwest and its travel partners serve nearly 750 cities in almost 120 countries on six continents. In 2003, consumers from through-

out the world recognized Northwest's efforts to make travel easier. Northwest's WorldPerks program was named the most popular North American frequent flyer program by readers of TIME Asia in the 2003 TIME Readers' Travel Choice Awards. A 2003 J.D. Power and Associates study of airports ranked Minneapolis/St. Paul and Detroit, home to Northwest's two largest hubs, in second and fourth place among large domestic airports in overall customer satisfaction.

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority spent an average of \$15 per enplaned passenger in the first 10 months of the fiscal year, posting a 7.8-percent cost reduction as compared with the same period in FY 2003.

The cost per enplaned passenger, or CEP, refers to the amount spent by the Commonwealth Ports Authority to service each passenger departing from any of the CNMI's three airports. It is calculated by dividing the CPA airport division's total operating expenses by the number of departing passengers.

CPA data showed that a total of 561,247 passengers departed from CNMI airports from October 2003

to July 2004. During this period, CPA had total operating expenses amounting \$8.42 million.

About 90 percent, or 503,484 of the enplaned passengers departed from the Saipan International Airport, where all international flights—except for some charter flights—are operated. The FY 2004 figure was the highest of the past five years, and showed a 16.2-percent increase from the FY 2003 number.

The Saipan airport had operating costs of \$6.9 million, and therefore spent \$13.72 per enplaned passenger.

The slight increase in traffic also caused some improvement in the enplanement costs at the Rota and Tinian airports.

During the first 10 months of FY 2004, Rota serviced 25,853

passengers—or 4 percent more than during the first 10 months of FY 2003.

CPA-Rota spent a total of \$836,344 during this period. This translates to a CEP of \$32.35—more than double the enplanement cost on Saipan. Nevertheless, Rota's CEP for the first 10 months of this year showed a 10-percent reduction as compared with the same period in 2003.

A total of 31,910 passengers departed from Tinian International Airport since the start of the fiscal year, registering a 23.9-percent increase over last year's figure.

CPA disbursed \$675,534 for personnel, maintenance, and other expenses for the operation of the Tinian airport during this period; it spent \$21.17 per passenger.

## Guadalcanal villagers take violent revenge

**HONIARA, Solomon Islands** (SIBC/PIR)—The Vulolo House of Chiefs in Central Guadalcanal has reported violence from Chuchui to Baleho Keke, including torture, robbery, attempted rape and murder.

The incidents, apparently acts of revenge against a former warlord in the region, were said to have occurred last week, with those involved claiming to have acted on the advice of RAMSI and Police.

The chiefs reported that on the 16th to 19th of August, about 80 people comprising the paramount chief, chiefs, community leaders and youths of Goldridge area carried out the violent crimes.

They say a total of 31 houses were completely destroyed, with more than 30 families hav-

ing fled, and goods were stolen.

Those involved are alleged to have taken retaliatory action against former militants that were followers of Stanley Kaoni, commonly known as "Satan," and some of his friends who are now in police custody.

Some former militants from Satan's camp are still in the community and the violent measures were alleged to have been directed against them and members of their families.

But the Vulolo House of Chiefs condemns the action and calls on the police to visit the area and clamp down on the situation.

SIBC understands that the chiefs have written to police, RAMSI and Guadalcanal provincial administration, expressing their deep concern on these latest violent activities.

shell back to school

# Business

arc august  
specials



mazda  
cmyk

# Opinion

# Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

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Letters to the Editor

*Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.*

# 1 missing, 3 rescued in Guam waters

GUAM (PDN/PIR)—One man remains missing after rescue officials rescued three men surfing in the rough post-typhoon waters Tuesday.

At around 4:30pm, rescue officials received an emergency call about three distressed swimmers in the waters by Jonestown, Tamuning, said Guam Fire Department spokeswoman Firefighter Phyllis Blas.

Rescue units 1 and 2 were activated, as well as the U.S. Coast Guard and the Navy Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 5.

Blas said two of the men were rescued by fire department Jet Skis, and a third was picked up by a Navy HC-5 helicopter. All three were transported to the Guam Memorial Hospital.

But Blas said after interviewing the three, officials discovered there was a fourth surfer that had been with them.

Blas said the search was suspended at about 6:30 Tuesday night due to low visibility and rough water conditions, but will continue "at first light" this morning. No further information was available as of press time.

Civil Defense officials urged residents and visitors to avoid venturing near exposed beaches and reefs until the surf subsides and Supertyphoon Chaba has traveled away from the region. Blas said the four men may have been surfing.

The National Weather Service issued a high surf advisory and flash flood warning for Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan

Tuesday. Hazardous surf will continue to affect the region throughout the week.

In June, post-Tropical Storm Tingting waters claimed the lives of two men and four others remain missing at sea.

Ed Uson, Roland Jose, Mike Bautista, Keith Mendiola and John Aguon, employees of Guam Seawalker Tours, had gone to prepare the company's pontoon for business the following day. For a reason that remains unknown, the five men got into three kayaks and were overwhelmed and swept away by the high surf brewed by Tropical Storm Tingting. The bodies of Uson and Jose have been recovered.

Also missing is a man who reportedly was swept over the Tumon Bay reef on June 28.

## CHABA

From Page 1

ters on Saipan. A total of 111 evacuees remained at Rota's two shelters, while 53 were at a shelter on Tinian.

"Most shelters are at maximum capacity. Some shelters are exceeding capacity level [such] that uncertified rooms are being opened to accommodate them," Calvo said.

Calvo said authorities are evaluating three facilities on Saipan—the Kagman Community Center, the Ada Gymnasium, and the Northern Marianas College gymnasium—as possible long-term shelters to temporarily house evacuees who would be relocated from the schools possibly beginning tomorrow.

The Public School System had planned on resuming classes in public schools this week and has begun assessing classrooms' readiness. Yesterday, classes resumed at the Tinian High School, while the EOC disclosed the readiness of the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and the Saipan Southern High School for resumption of classes.

Most schools that are currently being used as temporary shelters do not have power and water, according to the EOC. The NMC Lab School, meanwhile, had cancelled its classes for the entire week, setting their resumption on Monday.

## Rota still in darkness

Rota, severely battered by the supertyphoon for several hours, still has no electrical power generated by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The EOC said Rota's generator would have to be dried out. The EOC said transmission lines would have to be assessed and repaired before actual power restoration work could begin. Pre-restoration work may last up to three days pending the acquisition of heat lamps.

The EOC said, though, that 60-70 percent of Rota's power distribution network remained intact. Private hotel Rota Resort can supply parts of Rota with power.

"On Rota, potential medium-term concern is that gravity-fed water systems may not be recharged due to the loss of power for pumps," Calvo said. Authorities have advised the island's residents to boil water before using them. Approximately 25 percent of the island's water supply has been restored.

Meanwhile, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. said coastal tanker Golden Micronesia would arrive at the Rota Harbor possibly tomorrow to supply fuel.

## Biz urged to call SCC for SBA help

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce said it will take information from businesses damaged by Supertyphoon Chaba that want to apply for help from the Small Business Administration.

Businesses should call 233-7150 between 8am and 5pm with the following information: business name; business location; contact person; telephone number; fax number; and

summary of the damage.

The chamber said it will pass the information to the Small Business Administration, which will then make its own reviews and determinations.

"This service is available to all businesses on Saipan; a business does not need to be a member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to avail itself of this service," it said.

"In addition, Mobil has reserved gasoline and diesel fuel [on] Rota and Tinian for the government's emergency needs to ensure recovery efforts are not restricted," said Cecile Bamba Suda, Mobil's public relations manager.

Mobil issued the statement following Mayor Benjamin Manglona's call for private companies to address Rota's looming fuel and food shortage, saying that current supplies were already running low.

Suda said Rota's fuel supply would be sufficient to cover demand until the scheduled arrival of the coastal tanker tomorrow.

On Tinian, she said the tanker might arrive on Sunday, so long as it could enter Tinian's Harbor. As of yesterday, however, the EOC said all harbors on the islands remained closed pending the completion of inspections.

Power supply on Saipan has been 85-percent restored, while Tinian has achieved about 90-percent power restoration. Water supply on Saipan and Tinian has been restored to 40- and 90-percent of their respective normal supplies.

While all airports on the three islands resumed normal operations, the EOC reported that Tinian Airport's 400-kv generator as inoperable. The EOC said that CUC would repair or replace the equipment.

## Chaba injures 13

The supertyphoon left at least 13 persons injured and one person dead. Calvo clarified, though, that the cause of death has yet to be ascertained, while the injuries sustained by rest were only minor.

The EOC said the tourist, who was reported missing on Saipan's Grotto, has been presumed dead, possibly due to drowning. Police identified the missing person as Jiang Lin, a 38-year-old Chinese. Rough waters reportedly swallowed Jiang on Saturday, the eve of Chaba's approach to the islands.

The EOC cautioned motorists to

be watchful of debris on roadways. It added, though, that most of the island's primary and secondary roads have been cleared of debris, while traffic lights on Saipan are now operating.

The Department of Public Works yesterday waived the weekly limit on the volume of trash that could be dumped in the transfer station for free, allowing residential haulers to bring to the transfer stations up to three loads a day without assessed fees. *(See related story on Page 5)*

The Solid Waste Transfer Station in Lower Base would be opened until 6pm Monday through Friday.

## Disaster cancels lawmakers' sessions

The disaster brought by the supertyphoon resulted in the cancellation of sessions of both chambers of the CNMI Legislature, the building and offices of which got soaked in floodwaters.

House Speaker Benigno Fitial cancelled the session supposedly set on Rota today, while Senate President Joaquin Adriano reset yesterday's Senate session supposedly on Tinian to Sept. 14 at the Upper House chamber. Sept. 1's Senate session would be held on Sept. 16 instead at the same venue. Adriano also scheduled another session on Sept. 15.

Office desks and equipment were lined up yesterday at the legislative building's hallways, after employees trooped to Capitol Hill to clear offices of ponded water, wet carpets and equipment.

One of the employees said she swept up to three inches of floodwaters from her office. She went to the Legislature again yesterday to help clean up the mess.

"This is the first time that we have an aftermath of a typhoon, followed by flooding," said House Rep. Martin Ada.

House leadership spokesperson Charles Reyes Jr. said the legislative building sustained significant damage, with some offices having leaking roofs.

## CUC

From Page 1

Mathis said. "Please understand that we are not leaving people out. We're doing everything we can to make all the work done fast."

She explained that some houses have to be isolated from the energized system if they are connected to a power pole that is down or has cracks. There are also cases where a house cannot be connected even though there's no problem with the pole nearest to the customer. There may be broken equipment in lateral streets or the road that goes into the area, Mathis said.

Mathis also urged customers to refrain from calling CUC's 24-hour emergency hotlines—with telephone numbers 235-0282 and 235-2282—for inquiries on the status of power

restoration efforts in their area. The hotlines should be reserved for emergency calls such as reports of sparking lines or transformers.

Instead, customers are advised to call CUC at 233-7028/9 during normal business hours.

CUC is now preparing a registration form for customers who still do not have power, Mathis added. Copies of the form will be made available at the CUC office on the 3rd floor of the Dandan Commercial Center, or at the CUC customer service office in Garapan.

She said customers may fill in the form, and make sure not to re-register once they are on the list, to avoid confusion.

CUC personnel will be going house-to-house starting tomorrow, when additional manpower from the Guam Power Authority arrives.

## PSS

From Page 1

"took into account the expeditious manner in which CNMI has submitted complete audits under the Single Audit Act through FY 2003."

"Beyond the efforts to address the findings related to fiscal accountability of Department funds, CNMI [PSS] has undertaken corrective action for programmatic audit findings and is currently instituting corrective actions," said Hickok.

Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos said yesterday that she is pleased with the DOE's decision.

"It's good news and evidence that PSS has implemented the corrective actions required in the areas of financial audits, fiscal accountability, program performance reports, and administration of program funds," she said.

"It's a product of hard work and collaboration between PSS and USDOE,"

## FOUL

From Page 1

that the victim had sustained a fractured skull "to the back right side of the victim's head."

Muna said that Espinola had found that the victim "fell backward with his head making contact and/or head hitting the asphalt first and as a result the head or skull got fractured."

The skull fracture was reportedly consistent with the "head falling theory."

"Dr. Espinola indicated that the skull fracture is consistent with the victim falling backward as a result of the punch and with the head first making contact [with] the asphalt/pavement," said Muna.

The Attorney General Office yesterday filed criminal charges against Ortiz's suspected assailant, Edgardo Palma.

AGO Criminal Division chief David Hutton filed a second-degree murder charge, among others, against Palma, alleging that the suspect killed Ortiz.

In the same complaint, the suspect was also charged with assault and battery, aggravated assault and battery, and disturbing the peace, saying that Palma attacked the victim by hitting, striking, "and otherwise caus[ing] bodily harm to Ortiz."

Ortiz, who was allegedly mauled by

she added, noting that the decision is consistent with the report made by a five-member team from USDOE that visited Saipan earlier this year.

Last year, DOE placed the PSS under high-risk category due to unresolved delays and gaps in PSS' submission of audit reports.

It said that PSS failed to submit audited financial reports on time under the Single Audit Act for four consecutive years—fiscal years 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Aside from being late, the audits reportedly did not have appropriate information to meet the requirements of the Act.

The department said that submission of late audits has a substantial negative impact on submitting high quality audits, while the submission of single audits past the statute of limitations undercuts the department's ability to recover costs that are questionable.

Palma over a woman, died in the early hours of Aug. 18 while under treatment at the Commonwealth Health Center. Ortiz had been hooked to a life support system from the time he was brought to CHC on Aug. 13.

Initial investigation showed that Ortiz and Palma had a heated altercation at the parking lot of the Dai-Ichi Hotel Saipan Beach on Aug. 13.

According to police, Palma had admitted punching Ortiz but refused to give details, citing his constitutional rights.

Crime scene investigators had reportedly seized a metal pipe at the crime scene—a possible weapon that could have been used by the suspect in attacking the victim.

Before the incident, Ortiz was asking a woman, who was aboard a car if she has a romantic relationship with the suspect. At that time, Palma was reportedly standing behind the victim. An altercation between Ortiz and Palma followed, resulting in a fight and ending with Ortiz slumped on the pavement, covered in blood and motionless.

Ortiz worked as a painter for the hotel's engineering and maintenance department while Palma works as salesman.

Palma, who was arrested after the incident, is currently out on bail.

# Saipan Tribune

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# World



## Life &amp; Style

## The mind of 'Imelda'

By CARINA CHOCANO  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

"I've been very misunderstood," says a pouty, wide-eyed Imelda Marcos at the outset of Ramona S. Diaz's documentary "Imelda." She's decked out like a Braniff stewardess, touring the Philippine countryside in a chauffeured R.V. and distributing autographed photos of herself to the adoring crowd that gathers around her wherever she goes—a plutocratic Celine Dion charged with human rights abuses.

In 1993, while working on a film about the toppling of the Marcos regime, Diaz obtained a 15-minute interview with Mrs. Marcos, widow of the deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos, in her Manila apartment. She emerged five hours later with the start of a new film. Despite the former first lady's extensive, some might say ecstatic, participation in "Imelda," she recently sued to prevent the film from being shown in the Philippines. (She lost.) It's just this sort of contradiction that shapes

the character that emerges over an increasingly surreal two hours—which is a long time to be caught without succor in the blitzkrieg of self-involvement that is Mrs. Marcos. A onetime beauty queen who contested the results of a pageant she didn't win, Imelda married the shrewd, calculating Marcos within 11 days of meeting him. Clearly, cameras and mirrors have always been her undoing, ever since before they helped usher her into power.

Imelda's beef with "Imelda," according to reports, is that it mocks her life, which is not strictly accurate—she herself does a much better job of it than Diaz could do on her own. A figment of her own imagination, Marcos shares a seemingly endless store of rose-tinted memories, tortured rationalizations and increasingly unhinged theories linking leadership and governance to beauty, which she defines as "love made real." A profligate spender who looted hundreds of millions of dollars, she returns again and again to the notion that when she lived

well, she believed, "the people felt good." Marcos' monologues are intercut with interviews with journalists, diplomats and family members and friends, who interject with their own memories of manipulation, torture and political repression. We also see newsreel footage recalling everything from the Marcos' U.S.-sanctioned rise-to-power to their U.S.-approved fall-from-grace. (President Reagan apparently stopped returning Ferdinand's calls.)

"Imelda" is not a political film in the vein of "Fahrenheit 911" or other recent political documentaries. It resists showing its hand, opting for a more oblique approach. Diaz has said that she hopes the film asks the right questions. But it seems, in this case, that the questions are leading—and rightly so. Marcos is given all the tape she needs to hang herself, which she readily does. She presents her most cherished delusions at great length, whereupon they are swatted flat by more reliable sources.

At times, the contradictions

between what Marcos says and what is clearly the reality can be poignant. In one sequence, Marcos takes the camera crew on a tour of her presidential home, comes upon she and her late husband's separate bedrooms, and says disbelievingly, "Somehow, I had my own bedroom and he had his own bedroom. ... But we were always together..."

But mostly it's Marcos' mysterious sway over those who stood to lose the most from her power, coupled with her amazing inability to face that fact, that makes "Imelda" maddeningly fascinating. Marcos' life can read like a parable, or a story by Dickens written in his most righteous mood. The life's work of one interview subject, in particular, rivals that of Marie Antoinette's baker for sheer bitter cosmic irony: Imelda's couturier, Christian Espiritu (Espiritu meaning Spirit in Spanish) toiled round-the-clock for years in his atelier, sacrificing his seamstresses' eyesight



Marcos

at the altar of Imelda's beauty. He thought then it was his patriotic duty "Imelda," as Diaz has pointed out, is a character study, but it goes beyond the individual and the forces that shaped her (the loss of her mother in childhood, dreams of stardom, a secretly unhappy private life). "Imelda" is also a portrait of a country in the grip of a post-Colonial identity crisis. The film seems to suggest that the Philippine people, hav-

ing been colonized by Spain, Japan and twice by the United States, were primed to place themselves at the mercy of a couple who promised to be a mother and a father to them. But they were parents who had been themselves raised in the paternalistic shadow of the United States. If you squint, "Imelda" could be the picture of any poor nation whose dreams betray its troubled link to an extravagant, capricious superpower.

## Stewart probes Kerry on military service

**NEW YORK (AP)**—After weeks of charge and countercharge in the presidential campaign, comedian Jon Stewart tried Tuesday to get to the bottom of the debate over Democrat John Kerry's military service in Vietnam.

"I watch a lot of the cable news shows, so I understand that you were never in Vietnam," asked Stewart, host of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show."

"That's what I understand, too, but I'm trying to find out what happened," Kerry joked.

A group of Vietnam veterans has accused Kerry, in public statements and in television commercials, of exaggerating his actions during the war, where he served on a Navy swift boat and earned five medals.

As Kerry launched into one of his lengthy monologues about why President Bush avoids talking about issues like the economy, jobs and the environment, the comedian interrupted.

"I'm sorry," Stewart said. "Were you or were you not in Cambodia?"

Stewart and Kerry then lean in and stare each other down over the comedian's desk before Stewart asks about some of the other things Kerry's opponents are saying about him.

"Are you the number one most liberal senator in the Senate?" he asked, joking about claims that Kerry is "more liberal than Karl Marx, apparently."

"No," Kerry answered.



AP

Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., left, appears on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2004, in New York.

"Are you or have you ever flip-flopped?" Stewart asked.

"I've flip-flopped, flap-flipped," Kerry said, poking fun at the GOP's label.

Stewart also sought answers to another hard-hitting question: "Is it true that every time I use ketchup, your wife gets a nickel?" The candidate's wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry, is heir to the Heinz food fortune.

"Would that it were," Kerry said.

When the conversation turned serious, Stewart asked Kerry how he would counter Bush's ability in debates to turn issues into a choice between his position and the opposition.

Kerry said the debates would be a challenge. "The president has won every debate he's ever had," Kerry said. "He beat Ann

Richards. He beat Al Gore. So, he's a good debater."

Many presidential candidates appeared on late-night comedy shows this year. John Edwards, now Kerry's running mate, even announced on "The Daily Show" that he was a candidate for president—which Kerry said he watched.

"I think that's why he lost," Stewart said.

"No, he won," Kerry insisted, then jokingly offered to hold their inauguration on the show.

Kerry offered an interesting observation on life as a presidential candidate.

"You'd be amazed at the number of people who want to introduce themselves to you in the men's room," he said. "It's the most bizarre part of this entire thing."

obit



## Jay-Z and R. Kelly plan fall tour

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Jay-Z and R. Kelly are going back in time. Their planned 2002 tour never materialized because of child pornography charges against Kelly. Now they're set to open "The Best of Both Worlds" tour Sept. 30 in Chicago.

The U.S. tour, which takes its name from their 2002 album, will travel to more than 40 cities before ending in Phoenix on Nov. 28.

They appeared together last year at Jay-Z's concert at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Kelly, whose real name is Robert Sylvester Kelly, faces 14 counts of child pornography in Chicago and has pleaded innocent.

In March, prosecutors in

Florida dropped all 12 child pornography charges against Kelly, 37, after a judge ruled that photos allegedly showing the R&B singer having sex with an underage girl were illegally seized.

Kelly's new album, "Happy People/U Saved Me," was released Tuesday. His hits include "Ignition," "Step in the Name of Love" and the Grammy-winning "I Believe I Can Fly."

Jay-Z, 34, is the leading nominee for the 2004 MTV Video Music Awards with six nominations for his jarring video for "99 Problems," which depicts his own murder as a metaphor for his retirement from rapping. The awards will be presented Sunday in Miami.

## It's deja view all over again on TV

By **LYNN ELBER**  
AP TELEVISION WRITER

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Broadcast networks are in big trouble this season if federal regulators add being derivative to the list of TV trespasses. Networks are copying their own series, sometimes with a third or fourth edition ("CSI," "Law & Order") or putting on shows that have the whiff of copycat about them ("The Contender" vs. "The Next Great Champ").

Television is used to milking ideas for all they're worth, but the trend is nearly overwhelming in the 2004-05 season—nearly, but not quite.

There are a few wayward and promising originals, including ABC's suburban satire "Desperate Housewives"; CBS' coming-of-age baseball drama "Clubhouse"; the WB's "Jack & Bobby," about a future U.S. president's youth, and NBC's animated Siegfried & Roy comedy "Father of the Pride."

Mostly, however, viewers will get what's been proven to work because networks figure playing it safe is the sanest course of action.

"The networks will continue to create similar shows or variations of franchises as long as the audience continues to watch," said industry analyst Bill Carroll of Katz Television Group.

Since people flock to CBS' "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" and "CSI: Miami," give 'em "CSI: NY." Or a fourth "Law & Order, coming midseason. Or two more reality series in which rich guys spread the wealth in the tradition of NBC's hit "The Apprentice" ("The Benefactor," "The Billionaire: Branson's Quest for the Best").

After all, one of the best characterizations of the medium, right behind Newton Minow's "vast wasteland," is the late satirist Fred Allen's assertion that imitation is the sincerest form of television.

There's deja vu in casting as well, with familiar TV faces in

new places, among them Rob Lowe ("The West Wing") in "dr. vegas"; Neal McDonough ("Boomtown") and Kelli Williams ("The Practice") in "Medical Investigation," and John Goodman ("Roseanne"), Jean Smart ("Designing Women") and Ed Asner ("Lou Grant") in "Center of the Universe."

(Heck, even "Jeopardy!" is bringing back last season's on-going champion, Ken Jennings, when the syndicated game show returns in September.)

The goal for networks is to keep their footing in the unending battle against cable TV's innovative, often racy programming which broadcast can match in only a pallid fashion.

If it tries to do more than that, the Federal Communications Commission is waiting to enforce indecency regulations—now even more vigorously since Janet Jackson's Super Bowl exposure.

Broadcasters may need a laugh but they're not searching for comfort in comedy. A paltry seven new sitcoms are debuting, making an already drama-heavy schedule even more so. All told, the six networks will field up to 49 dramas by the first quarter of 2005, compared to some 37 comedies.

For the first time in two decades, NBC won't have four sitcoms on Thursday night. It will have "Joey," the "Friends" spinoff starring Matt LeBlanc and one of the season's high-profile newcomers.

Another season hallmark is the sizable number of new reality shows—six—and their introduction at the season's start. This year, they're not second-string substitutes for failed dramas and sitcoms.

The result: an extreme, if gradual, makeover.

"Comedy and newsmagazines are pushed out by the influx of reality shows—or infestation," said Shari Anne Brill, an analyst with the ad buying firm Carat USA.

# Scientists link birth month to diseases later in life

By **ERIKA NIEDOWSKI**  
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Pisces (Feb. 19--March 20): Governed by Neptune and symbolized by the fish. Compassionate, introspective, artistic. Often dreamy and impractical. May be prone to schizophrenia, epilepsy or bipolar disorder.

It may sound like some kind of new, madcap astrology, but a number of scientists are becoming convinced that our birth month may predispose us to particular diseases later in life.

Studies have shown that schizophrenia is more common among those born in late winter or early spring. Multiple sclerosis is associated with births in April, May and June. And epilepsy occurs more frequently in those with birthdays from December to March.

has studied the association between birth month and narcolepsy.

"Most people tend to think that disease is really something that is determined by your genes or what happens just before the disease occurs," he said. "Maybe there are a number of things that can happen well before."

In the latest study, published in the current edition of the journal *Neurology*, scientists at the National Cancer Institute found that adults born in January

and February had the highest risk of brain cancer. Those with birthdays in July and August had the lowest risk.

The paper's lead author, NCI epidemiologist Alina V. Brenner, is the first to offer a caveat: The findings could be the result of chance.

But separate studies in Britain and Norway have identified a similar correlation between birth season and risk of brain tumors in children, with a statistical "ex-

cess" of births in winter and a "deficit" in summer.

If the association turns out to be real, Brenner said, it suggests that exposures early in a child's development—at any point from conception to the first few months after birth—could have a hand in the genesis of the disease. Though it's not clear what those exposures are, they could include viruses, environmental toxins or even something as seemingly benign as the weather.

Seasonal birth patterns have

been most firmly established in schizophrenia patients. Several years ago, a group of

more common in those with winter births.

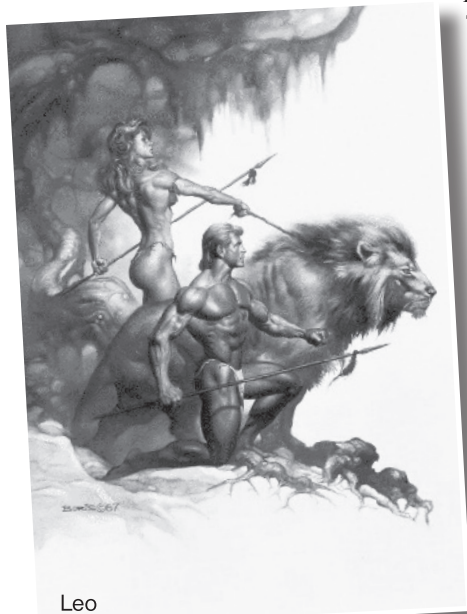
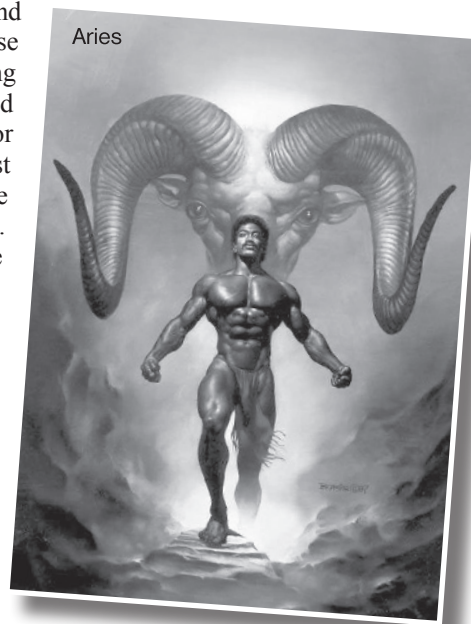
"We know that infectious agents have a seasonality—influenza being the most striking," Torrey said. "Therefore, you certainly have to think of infectious agents infecting the mother late in pregnancy or infecting the newborn in the first few months of life."

Stanford's Mignot and a group of colleagues from France published a paper in the journal *Sleep* last year linking birth month with another disorder: narcolepsy. Patients with that condition are regularly seized with sleep during normal waking hours.

The researchers compared the birth dates of 886 narcoleptics being treated at sleep clinics in Montpellier, France; Montreal, and California to those of more than 35 million people in the general population.

The distribution of births was strikingly uneven, with the number of narcoleptics born in March (11.9 percent) significantly exceeding the number expected in the general population (8.5 percent).

Conversely, the researchers



Leo

The findings may seem whimsical or—depending on which month you eat cake and unwrap presents—alarming. But researchers hope the emerging patterns will offer clues into the origins of a range of illnesses that, despite advances in treatment, have no known cause.

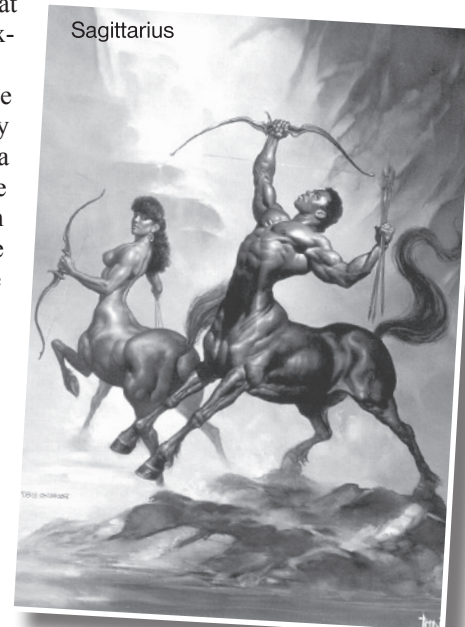
"It makes you think differently about disease," said Dr. Emmanuel Mignot, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University School of Medicine, who

Danish researchers reported that the risk of developing the disorder was highest among those born in February and March and lowest among those with birthdays in August and September.

For his part, Dr. E. Fuller Torrey, research psychiatrist at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., has ruled out the possibility that chance alone explains the findings.

"It could be chance if it were one study of 250 people, or a few dozen people here or a few dozen people there," he said. "When you're dealing with a couple hundred thousand people and 200 studies, the chances of it being chance are zero-point-zero. It's remarkably consistent."

The leading explanation implicates a seasonal infection that could be disturbing the child's normal brain development, which may help explain why other central nervous system disorders are also



Sagittarius

found a significant drop in the number of narcoleptics born in September (5.6 percent) compared with the number normally expected (8.7 percent).

## Producer won't share tiger mauling video

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—The company that produced the Siegfried & Roy magic show has refused to turn over video to federal authorities investigating the tiger attack on illusionist Roy Horn, The Associated Press has learned.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture attempted to obtain video of the show through two recent subpoenas but Vienna, Va.-based Feld Entertainment would not hand over the footage, a USDA source familiar with the case said Tuesday.

The source said the USDA would pursue other "legal avenues."

Under the federal Animal

Welfare Act, the USDA has been investigating the Oct. 3 attack in which Horn was mauled by a 300-pound tiger during a live performance at The Mirage hotel-casino in Las Vegas.

Horn survived the attack but suffered a stroke that left him partially paralyzed and the successful show closed.

USDA spokesman Jim Rogers said Tuesday from Washington D.C., that the probe into the tiger attack remains open and confirmed that the show is under investigation for possible violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

The act allows the USDA to

take action against violators and impose fines and suspend or revoke licenses.

Rogers would not discuss USDA's efforts to get the footage or details of the investigation.

Feld Entertainment spokeswoman Shannon Pak declined comment because of the ongoing investigation.

The USDA also is investigating the death of a Ringling Bros. circus lion. Ringling Bros. is run by Feld Entertainment.

The lion died last month on a train traveling from Phoenix to California. A lion handler said circus managers ignored his pleas to check on the animal on

the long trip through the Mojave Desert, where temperatures can exceed 100 degrees.

Jim Andacht, vice president of circus operations, wrote in an Aug. 14 letter to The Washington Post that "a statement by a former Ringling Bros. employee misrepresented the events before and after the death of our 2-year-old lion, Clyde, including false allegations that our company and employees were withholding information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture."

"Feld Entertainment always cooperates fully with USDA officials and instructs its employees to do the same," he said.



# From spark to chart topper, instinct drives U2

By ROBERT HILBURN  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

**NEW YORK**—"It's one of the most banal couplets I've ever heard," Bono says sheepishly about the words he wrote for one of U2's best-known songs. "'I want to run, I want to hide....' That's not very interesting, but you know what? People don't hear the couplets when we play the song."

"They hear something else in the music. They hear a band talking about a special place, a better place, and asking if the audience wants to go there with them."

Bono, who writes most of U2's lyrics, is keenly aware that the music's power often comes less from his pen than from the sweeping sonic foundation built by the band.

"Feelings are stronger than ideas or words in a song," he says, pacing the floor of his Central Park West apartment, offering a contrarian view of pop songwriting.

"You can have 1,000 ideas, but unless you capture an emotion, it's an essay."

The comments are surprising from a man who devotes so much of his time to ideas—from the spiritually tinged themes that underlie many U2 songs to his high-profile crusade to get wealthy nations to forgive Third World debt.

"Songwriting comes from a different place," he says. "Music is the language of the spirit. I think ideas and words are our excuse as songwriters to allow our heart or our spirit to run free. That's when magic happens."

It happens so often for U2 that the group has come closer to matching the quality and mass appeal of The Beatles over the past 25 years than any other band.

This is pop music at its most ambitious—personal and independent enough to satisfy discerning listeners, yet open and accessible enough to pack stadiums. Although the group has experimented with electronica and other contemporary sounds, the essence of U2 is classic rock 'n' roll.

You won't find lots of humor or party toss-offs in U2. The Irish quartet's flurry of Top 40 hits, including "Pride (In the Name of Love)" and "One," mostly are soaring anthems built around the same message of brotherhood that characterized The Beatles' later years. Yet U2 arrives at songs in a much different way.

John Lennon or Paul McCartney usually came up with songs and then taught them to George Harrison and Ringo Starr. But U2 collaborates to a degree that is rare—a process that depends on the singular chemistry of the four musicians.

Bono and guitarist the Edge bring ideas into the studio—a title, the trace of a melody or a catchy riff—then bassist Adam Clayton and drummer Larry Mullen join in the construction of the songs. The grueling give-and-take sometimes stretches for weeks as the musicians toss ideas back and forth, equal partners in the search for an emotion that seems fresh and deeply rooted.

When the marathon sessions are going well, Mullen says, the rehearsal studio feels like a playground. When they're going badly, it feels like a boxing ring.

"We're tough guys," Clayton says. "We know we'll get there eventually. A lot of it is perspiration. You just have to put in the hours and do your time." The Edge is fond of repeating the band's private joke that it's "songwriting by accident."

"It's more like Miles Davis than The Beatles in a way," Bono says.

Only after the band finds that powerful emotion, be it blissful or melancholy, does Bono begin applying lyrics. Sometimes he'll draw phrases or lines from the notebook he carries with him. Occasionally, he'll work from a finished lyric.

His improvisation in the studio often starts with him just muttering sounds that seem to fit the flow of the music being created—"Bono-eze," his bandmates call it.

"When Bono starts going through his Bono-eze, it can change what we're playing and take the song in a different direction," Mullen says. "If he's doing something very intense, it might not even be what he's saying, but the way he's behaving, the way he's throwing the microphone around. The energy and intensity helps shape the song."

Gradually, Bono begins changing sounds into words and lines, trying to articulate the



## Five for the U2 fan's library

By ROBERT HILBURN  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

These albums, all released by Island, offer an absorbing chronicle of U2's artistry and growth.

1. **"Boy"** 1980. This album feels very much like the start of a journey, which it was for young men just out of their teens. The tunes capture marvelously the optimism and uncertainties one feels at that age. Highlight: "I Will Follow."
2. **"The Unforgettable Fire"** 1984. The "War" album in 1983 signaled the maturation of U2 as artists, but this CD was the real creative breakthrough. Highlight: "Bad."
3. **"The Joshua Tree"** 1987. The band's first masterpiece, a work of profound elegance and mystery and faith. Highlights: "Where the Streets Have No Name," "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For."
4. **"Rattle and Hum"** 1988. This will likely be a controversial choice because even some U2 fans thought the band's ego got in the way in this companion piece to the band's concert movie. But the mix of U2's imagination and the band's celebration of American roots music in this two-disc package is gloriously personal and daring. Highlight: "Love Rescue Me," co-written by Bob Dylan.
5. **"Achtung Baby"** 1991. The band changes gears in every way but one: The music still feels heartfelt and compelling, yet also more risk-taking and edgy. Highlight: "One."

feelings the music stirs in him.

Unlike many great songwriters, he doesn't spend much time editing his words. He even declares that "craft and taste can be the enemy of songwriting" because they encourage you to follow certain rules, rather than simply following your emotions.

"At various times, we've tried to stick to conventional songwriting," Mullen says from Dublin. "But after a few months we see it's not working. We need to dismantle the ideas and start again."

Adds the Edge: "My worst nightmare is sounding 'professional.' I think we work best when we keep moving into the unknown."

U2's unorthodox songwriting style was born out of necessity.

When the band members came together in high school, they weren't good enough at their instruments to play convincing versions of the hits of the day. To hide their inexperience, they came up with their own songs.

"From fairly early on, it became clear to us that we had no idea about songwriting technique," the Edge says. "Our way into songwriting was to dream it up. ... Instinct was everything for us, and it really still is."

While he sometimes wishes the band's songwriting process gave him more time to write the lyrics, Bono still thinks the system

comes up with the best songs.

"When I look at our first 10 years, I just hear unfinished work, lyrics we never finished because we ran out of studio time," he says of his contributions. "I hear 'Bad,' and see what's not there. I just see a list of failures."

Still, he wouldn't change way U2 works. For all his personal frustrations and the band's uncertain moments, they all know they've found a way to connect with audiences.

Although Bono and his family live most of the year in Dublin, he enjoys the energy of New York.

He still takes delight in pointing out some of the landmarks as he sits in the passenger seat of a van headed to a meeting on easing world hunger. As the driver navigates through traffic, Bono shoves the new U2 album into the CD player and pounds his fist on the dashboard as the music blasts through the speakers. There's a driving, rock 'n' roll vitality to the music, which is due out this fall; a freshness that you hardly expect from bands in their third decade.

But U2 has been able to remain both current and relevant. They get airplay on college and alt-rock radio stations and find their "Beautiful Day" at John Kerry campaign rallies.

As the vocal starts, he sings along. But it's so noisy in the car you can't really make out the words. Bono's expression, however, tells you he's very proud of this album. He suddenly stops singing and begins chuckling as he turns down the volume. "Did you hear that last verse? ... You never write a verse like that. That was definitely improvised. But there are other lines in the song I wrote ahead of time."

wallace



# Spector hires former Gotti attorney

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Music producer Phil Spector has hired an attorney who used to work for mob boss John Gotti to defend him on murder charges after his previous attorney resigned from the case.

Leslie Abramson said Tuesday that she and her co-counsel resigned as Spector's attorneys but were taken by surprise when Bruce Cutler filed a motion to take over the case while Abramson was out of the country.

"We were put in an untenable position, and we were forced to resign," Abramson said in a phone interview with The As-

sociated Press. "If we wanted to be ethical and competent, we had to resign."

She declined to elaborate.

Cutler, speaking from New York, said he has known Spector for a long time and had signed on as his personal attorney before Abramson and Marcia Morrissey took over the criminal case.

"I was engaged as Phillip's attorney and confidante last January," he said. "Leslie and Marcia were brought on in February, and they quit in July. They just jumped ship, and I had to take control of the ship and bring it into port."

Federal prosecutors in New York have portrayed Cutler as "house counsel" for the Gambino crime family. He won three trials for Gotti before prosecutors were able to get him disqualified from the defense team by playing 1990 tape recordings on which he had conversations with Gotti about other defendants.

Gotti died in prison in 2002.

Spector, famed for creating rock 'n' roll's "wall of sound" recording technique in the 1960s, is charged in the fatal shooting of Lana Clarkson at his mansion in February 2003.

Clarkson, 40, had gone home

with him from the House of Blues on the Sunset Strip where she was a hostess. She was best known as the star of Roger Corman's cult film classic "Barbarian Queen."

The case is scheduled for a preliminary hearing on Oct. 20. Cutler said they would seek to postpone the hearing to get up to date on the proceedings.

Spector, 64, is free on \$1 million bail.

Abramson was hired in February to replace Spector's original attorney, Robert Shapiro, who was a member of O.J. Simpson's defense team.

## Dave Matthews band sued over dumped waste

**CHICAGO (AP)**—The state of Illinois sued the Dave Matthews Band on Tuesday for allegedly dumping up to 800 pounds of liquid human waste from a bus into the Chicago River, dousing a tour boat filled with passengers.

The lawsuit accuses the band and one of its bus drivers of violating state water pollution and public nuisance laws. It seeks \$70,000 in civil penalties.

"Our driver has stated that he was not involved in this incident," band spokesman John Vlautin said in a statement. He said the band "will continue to be cooperative in this investigation."

According to the lawsuit, on Aug. 8 a bus leased by the band was heading to a downtown hotel where members were staying. As the bus crossed the Kinzie Street bridge, the driver allegedly emptied the contents of the septic tank through the bridge's metal grating into the river below.

More than 100 people on an architecture tour were showered with foul-smelling waste. The attorney general's office said no one was seriously injured.

## Rodney Dangerfield to have heart surgery

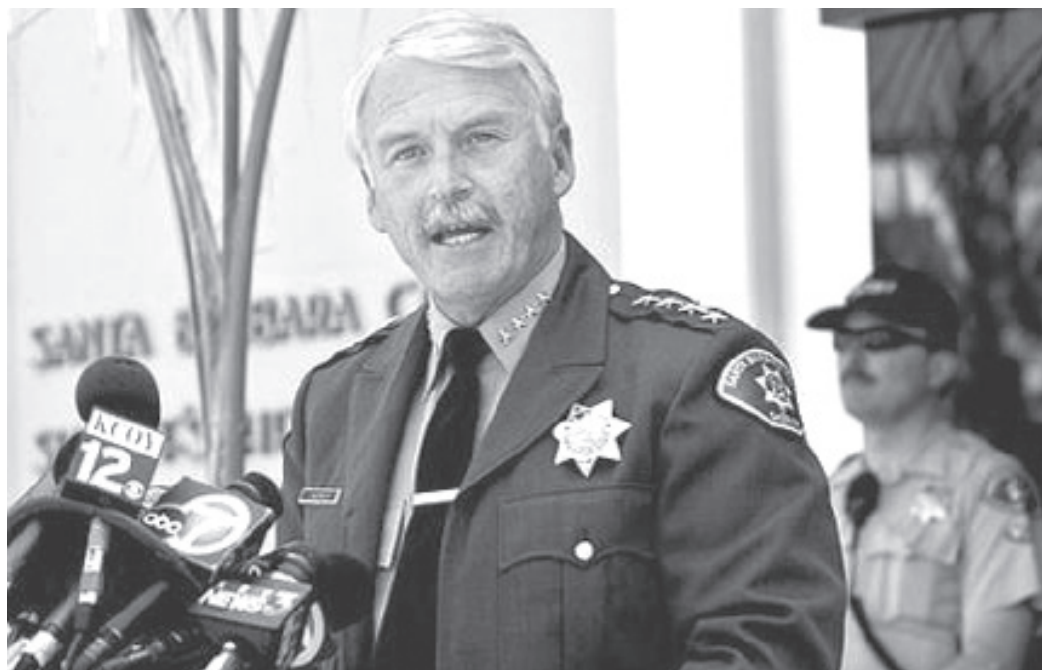
**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Comedian Rodney Dangerfield was hospitalized Tuesday for heart valve replacement surgery.

Dangerfield, 82, underwent brain surgery last year to reduce his chances of having a stroke during the heart operation.

Asked how long he would remain in the hospital after Wednesday's operation, he said: "If things go right, I'll be there about a week, and if things don't go right, I'll be there about an hour and a half."

The comic and actor, best known for his self-mocking line, "I don't get no respect," recently released his autobiography, "It's Not Easy Being Me: A Lifetime of No Respect but Plenty of Sex and Drugs."

Dangerfield's films include "Back to School" and "Caddyshack." He is set to guest star on the sitcom "Still Standing" this fall and will be heard as himself in the animated comedy "The Family Guy."



Santa Barbara County Sheriff Jim Anderson reacts to the release of the state attorney general's report of alleged mistreatment of Michael Jackson by deputies when he was arrested, at a news conference at sheriff's headquarters in Santa Barbara, Calif., Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2004.

## Sheriff pleased with Jackson arrest probe

**SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)**—The Santa Barbara County sheriff said Tuesday he was vindicated by a state attorney general's report that found no evidence deputies and jail staff manhandled Michael Jackson during his arrest on child molestation charges.

The report concluded there was no criminal conduct during the sheriff's department's contact with Jackson, Sheriff Jim Anderson said at a news conference.

The finding had been leaked to the media more than a week ago.

"After interviewing 163 witnesses and expending in excess of 2,500 investigative

hours, the California Bureau of Investigation determined that Mr. Jackson was not injured at the hands of Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department personnel," Anderson said.

Jackson claimed in a December "60 Minutes" interview that he was handled roughly during the Nov. 20 arrest. The sheriff denied the allegations but called for an investigation.

"The findings of the attorney general's investigation have provided a clear vindication of our personnel who were involved in the arrest and booking of Mr. Jackson," Anderson said.

He declined to answer when

asked if he planned to charge Jackson with making false claims. "I'm under court order not to take questions," he said.

Jackson attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. said in court last week that Jackson never made a formal complaint about his treatment or requested an investigation, although he had bruises and received medical treatment.

Jackson, 45, is scheduled to go on trial Jan. 31. He has pleaded not guilty to committing a lewd act upon a child, administering an intoxicating agent and conspiring to commit child abduction, false imprisonment and extortion. He is free on \$3 million bail.

## Phish fans offered refunds for tickets

**BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)**—The hundreds of Phish fans who were turned away from the band's farewell concerts earlier this month have been given an apology and the promise of a free gift.

"The last thing any of us wanted in the band's final hour was to leave some of our most dedicated fans feeling angry and disillusioned," Phish manager John Paluska says in a statement on the band's Web site.

An estimated 65,000 fans attended the Aug. 14-15 festival. Many others were turned away because of muddy conditions. Heavy rains turned the farm

fields in Coventry and grounds of the Newport State Airport where a camping site was set up and where the concert was held into big mud bogs.

Concertgoers who were turned away will receive a face-value refund on their tickets and a free download of the Coventry performances, Paluska said. They'll also receive an autographed book of photos from 1994 to 2004.

Dave Werlin, president of concert promoter Great Northeast Productions Inc., also issued an online letter of apology, saying organizers gave traveling concertgoers the best information they could.

## Man's collecting bug could be symptom of mental illness

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** "Living Like a Hermit in California" complained about her husband's unusual collecting behavior. "He owns 24 cars," she wrote. "None of them run; they just sit and rot. He buys old airplanes although he doesn't know how to fly and they, too, sit rusting away. He also collects cardboard boxes and anything in bulk." You suggested she contact a lawyer and get her husband a psychiatric evaluation.



Dear Abby

His hoarding sounds like obsessive-compulsive disorder to me. I have depression and, during my worst times, I have voraciously collected metal washers. I found it soothing to have something to concentrate on besides my problems. The quality of my collection was a substitute for real accomplishment.

The fact that "Living's" husband is also withdrawn leads me to suspect that he has depression, OCD or a similar psychiatric problem. I got help for mine, and I feel much better. Her husband might never be normal, but a good place to start would be sympathy, patience and a caring doctor.

OHIO HOARDER

**DEAR OHIO:** I advised "Living Like a Hermit in California" to consult a lawyer because she said her husband had moved them out of a house into a trailer and had spent all their assets on his "hobby." I agree that he may be mentally ill. Read on:

**DEAR ABBY:** The letter from "Living Like a Hermit" had a familiar ring. My neighbor exhibited similar behavior and was diagnosed with manic depression. When she was up, she collected; when she was down she withdrew from the world. Roger may be more than "eccentric"; he may suffer from a mental illness.

BEEN THERE IN TAMPA, FLA.

**DEAR BEEN THERE:** That may be true, but I am not qualified to diagnose him.

**DEAR ABBY:** Tell that woman to get off her duff, learn more about her husband's collection and then get on eBay! There are people rebuilding old cars who have to order custom parts when none are available. And in California, the movie business is always looking for props.

One studio rented my former father-in-law's car while shooting a movie about the Kennedy assassination in Dallas. They asked for permission to paint the car black. He said, "Sure, as long as you paint it white again before you return it." And they did!

NANCY IN HOUSTON

**DEAR NANCY:** I love your idea about turning her husband's "compulsion" into an income stream. They could use the money.

**DEAR ABBY:** "Living's" husband appears to have OCD. One of the manifestations of OCD can be saving things for the sake of saving them. And the tendency to avoid talking may possibly be a symptom of an autism spectrum disorder. These two disorders can coexist. I should know, as they run in our family.

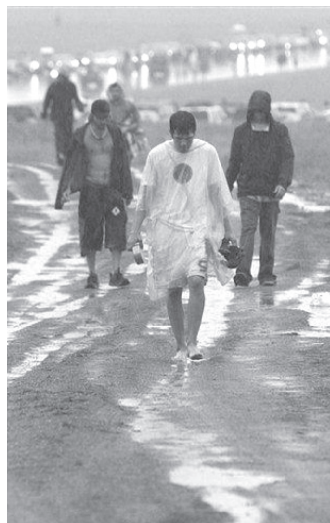
There are therapies and medications that can help him. Please urge "Living" to educate herself about these disorders and try to get her husband evaluated.

NANETTE IN HAWTHORNE, N.J.

**DEAR NANETTE:** Thank you for suggesting it. An excellent place to start would be NAMI, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a grassroots, self-help organization that focuses on education, advocacy, research and support for people with mental illness and their families. Its Web site is: [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org).

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Phish fans walk along a muddy road in Coventry, Vt. at the Phish festival, Thursday, Aug. 12, 2004.





# Pastimes

**CROSSWORD**

*By Eugene Sheffer*

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**Garfield®**

By Jim Davis

**Adam@home**

By Bryan Basset

**The Duplex**

By Glenn McCoy

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**

Justin Jeffre, Sean Astin, Lesley Boone, Sally Jessy Raphael

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Having a crusader attitude will make all the difference in the world this year. Be a little stubborn if you think you are right. Be diverse in all that you do and you will meet the demands being put on you and accomplish your goals. Your numbers are 2, 13, 17, 29, 31, 40

## EUGENIA LAST

### THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)

Push to make others aware of what you are doing and how you believe it will help everyone on some level. If you can sell your ideas to others, you will put yourself in a favorable position. □□□



**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)

This is a perfect day to make some much-needed adjustments. Opportunities will manifest themselves in the most unusual places, so don't hesitate to talk about your dreams. □□□



**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)

Keeping a secret will be of utmost importance today. By disclosing what you are up to, you could blow a deal or your cover. Work by yourself; question your motives. □□□



**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)

Do something creative today that can be used to benefit others. The more you do to help make reforms, the better. □□□□



**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

You will be misled if you are too gregarious. Tone down and observe what others are doing. Advancement may be at stake. □□



**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You can find an ideal romantic partner if you get out and do things that interest you. Get involved in talks that will stimulate your mind and broaden your perspective about projects you want to pursue. □□□□□



**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Prepare yourself well so that you can follow through with what's necessary as quickly as possible. Don't be lazy or waste time thinking about what you should be doing. □□□



**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Partnerships will be a little hard to handle if you don't take precautions and fully prepare. You can get on with your plans and get the praise you deserve. □□□



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Your work ethics will pay off, so roll up your shirtsleeves and work alongside others for best results. Your team-player approach will put you in a leadership position. □□□



**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You should be developing your ideas today. If you find someone particularly inspiring, spend time discussing your plans together. Love and romance will be on your doorstep. □□□□□



**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Take the initiative to follow what you feel is the best path and refrain from being led astray. Prepare to take a pass on what others are asking of you. □□



**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)

Your involvement in good causes will be rewarded today. You will begin to see the results of a job well done. Someone unusual, but interesting, will want to get to know you better. □□□□

**BIRTHDAY BABY:** You are proactive and never take the conventional route. Your outgoing nature always leads to adventure and excitement. You will chase your dreams until you reach your destiny.

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) and [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com).













# Sports

